

The Honorable Mary Alice Theiler

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

GARY STENSLAND,

Defendant.

NO. MJ20-505

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION(S)
18 U.S.C. § 2423(a)

BEFORE, the Honorable Mary Alice Theiler, United States Magistrate Judge, U. S.
Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

COUNT 1

**(Transportation of a Minor with Intent to Engage in Prostitution or Criminal
Sexual Activity)**

In or about September 2018, in King County, within the Western District of
Washington, and elsewhere, GARY STENSLAND knowingly transported MV1, an
individual who had not attained the age of eighteen years, in interstate and foreign
commerce with intent that MV1 engage in prostitution and sexual activity for which any
person can be charged with a criminal offense—to include, Rape of a Child in the Second
Degree in violation of RCW 9A.44.076—and attempted to do so.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2423(a).

1 And the complainant states that this Complaint is based on the following
2 information:

3 I, Special Agent Kevin Tilley, being duly sworn under oath, depose and say:

4 **INTRODUCTION**

5 1. I am a Special Agent (SA) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),
6 assigned to the Seattle, Washington, field office. I have been employed as an FBI Special
7 Agent since November 2018. Prior to joining the FBI, I worked for the Arizona
8 Department of Public Safety, as a State Trooper, for approximately three and a half years.
9 As part of my daily duties as an FBI agent, I investigate criminal violations relating to
10 child exploitation and child pornography including violations of Title 18, United States
11 Code §§ 2251(a), 2252A, 2422, and 2423. I specialize in the investigation of child
12 pornography, including the transmission, possession and production of child
13 pornography, exploitation of children on the internet, and other federal criminal activity

14 2. I graduated from the FBI academy in November 2018 and received basic,
15 and on-the-job training in the investigation of cases involving the sexual exploitation of
16 children. My training included courses in law enforcement techniques, federal criminal
17 statutes, conducting criminal investigations, and the execution of search warrants. I have
18 observed and reviewed examples of child pornography (as defined in 18 U.S.C. §
19 2256(8)). I am an affiliate member of the Seattle Internet Crimes Against Children
20 (ICAC) Task Force in the Western District of Washington, and work with other federal,
21 state, and local law enforcement personnel in the investigation and prosecution of crimes
22 involving the sexual exploitation of children. I also attended the Internet Crimes Against
23 Children Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in June 2019 and in Redmond, Washington, in
24 October 2019, where I received training relating to child exploitation and the use of the
25 Cellebrite forensic tool.

26 3. I am familiar with and have participated in a variety of investigative
27 techniques including but not limited to: surveillance, interviewing of witnesses/suspects,
28 and the execution of search and seizure warrants that involved child exploitation and/or

1 child pornography offenses, and the search and seizure of computers and other digital
2 devices.

3 4. The facts set forth in this Complaint are based on my own personal
4 knowledge; knowledge obtained from other individuals during my participation in this
5 investigation, including other law enforcement officers; review of documents and records
6 related to this investigation; communications with others who have personal knowledge
7 of the events and circumstances described herein; and information gained through my
8 training and experience. I have not set forth each and every fact known to me as a result
9 of this investigation but only those facts I believe necessary to establish probable cause to
10 conclude that STENSLAND committed the offense charged in this Complaint.

11 5. As further detailed below, based on my investigation and the investigation
12 of other law enforcement officers, I submit there is probable cause to believe that
13 STENSLAND transported a minor across state lines with intent to engage in prostitution
14 or criminal sexual activity with that minor. .

15 6. This Complaint is being presented electronically pursuant to Local
16 Criminal Rule CrR 41(d)(3).

17 **SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION**

18 7. This investigation arose from a report of the sexual exploitation of a minor
19 male, MV1, who was thirteen at the time of the exploitation. According to MV1, he met
20 GARY STENSLAND on Grindr in 2018. In September 2018, STENSLAND traveled
21 from Seattle to Portland, picked up MV1, and took him back to his home in Seattle,
22 where STENSLAND had anal sex with MV1. MV1 also said that STANSLAND paid
23 MV1 \$150 and then took him back to Portland.

24 8. As part of this investigation, law enforcement obtained two different
25 cellular telephones used by MV1 to communicate with STENSLAND. These
26 communications included multiple phone calls and text messages between MV1's phone
27 and a phone number that I was able to identify as STENSLAND's. One of the phones
28 also contained a Grinder conversation between MV1 and STENSLAND.

1 9. On August 5, 2020, I served search warrants for STENSLAND's home,
2 car, and person. Upon entering STENSLAND's home, I encountered STENSLAND. I
3 asked him if he would speak with me, and he agreed.

4 10. During a recorded interview, I first advised STENSLAND of his
5 constitutional rights, and he acknowledged he understood them. Among other things,
6 STENSLAND provided the following information:

- 7 • Around two years ago, STENSLAND traveled to Portland and transported
8 MV1 from Portland to his home in Seattle for the purpose of having sex.
- 9 • STENSLAND said he tried to have anal sex with MV1 but was not able to do
10 so.
- 11 • STENSLAND paid MV1 \$150 and transported him back to Portland.
- 12 • He was aware that MV1 was a minor at the time he transported him to and
13 from Seattle.
- 14 • In addition to MV1, STENSLAND has met at least two other minors no older
15 than fifteen online and engaged in sexual activity with them.
- 16 • He is currently in contact with one of those minors and has met him for sex on
17 multiple occasions, including within the last two weeks.
- 18 • STENSLAND admitted that he is sexually attracted to "younger males" and
19 has been since the age of eighteen.
- 20 • STENSLAND confirmed a search of his digital media would reveal that he
21 possessed visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

22 11. In September 2018, MV1 was thirteen years old, and STENSLAND was
23 over the age of thirty. He was not then (and is not currently) married to MV1. It would
24 be a violation of RCW 9A.44.076 (Rape of a Child in the Second Degree) for
25 STENSLAND to have sexual intercourse with MV1.
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1 **CONCLUSION**

2 12. Based on the above facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause
3 to believe that GARY STENSLAND did transported a minor across state lines with intent
4 to engage in prostitution or criminal sexual activity in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2423(a)..
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7 
8 Kevin Tilley, Affiant
9 Special Agent, FBI

10 The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the
11 foregoing Complaint and Affidavit to me, and the Court hereby finds that there is
12 probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.
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14 Dated this 5th day of August, 2020.
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16 
17 MARY ALICE THEILER
18 United States Magistrate Judge
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